

Published: Jan. 25, 2016, *Kokomo Tribune* [Page: A2]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/local_news/question-time-naming-lottery-winners/article_4da2a538-c2f6-11e5-a8e9-6fa965a1a182.html

Question Time: Naming lottery winners?

Should Hoosiers be allowed to claim winnings anonymously?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note:** To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

In only five states are lottery winners allowed to claim their winnings anonymously, no questions asked: Kansas, Delaware, Maryland, North Dakota and Ohio.

Indiana, though, is a different story.

"The Hoosier Lottery Public Relations Division will be by your side to guide you through publicity and media interactions. You should anticipate a press release containing your name, home city and details about your prize. The Hoosier Lottery may hold a press conference," reads the Hoosier Lottery's "Winners' Resource Book for \$50,000 or more." "Our staff will review the questions that you might be asked during your news conference. This will allow you time to contemplate responses that you might be comfortable

giving. If you don't understand a question, ask for clarification. If you don't want to answer a question, politely decline."

The handbook cites several Indiana Administrative Code sections to justify this, including, 65 IAC 8-1-3.

"The commission shall have the right to use and publicize the identity and image of any prize claimant in a lottery game," states the code. "The commission shall not pay any additional consideration to any prize claimant for use of this information or images. No member of the commission, the director, or any employee of the commission shall be personally liable for the use or release of information or images of a prize claimant in compliance with this section."

So, we wanted to know: "Should Indiana join these five states? Why or why not?"

Your answers

"I think we shouldn't have to let anyone know what we have won or how we got our money." — **Bill Ferguson**

"Yes we should join them. I don't think everyone needs to know our business." — **Georgiana M. Lamb**

"Announcing it is dangerous! It is crazy that some people are not allowed to NOT say 'Hey, I am rich,' to the world. Just weird!" — **Kisha Scott**

Our answers

“Absolutely. Like most, I sat and thought about all the shiny new things I could buy after winning my multi-million dollar pot of gold, but more often than not, I thought about how my life would change. Would I finally get to live like Madonna, with a security detail and my Yorkie hanging out the window of my limo, or would it be more of a protective custody-type of glamour? I wouldn't feel safe. There are far too many crazies in the world willing to take your life for 20 bucks. I can't imagine the danger I would be in with a multi-million dollar target on my back.” — **Autumn Ricketts**

“I suppose after this last jackpot, I'd say yes. If I would have won, I'm not sure I'd want the entire world knowing about it with how much coverage there was.” — **Kaylee Harden**

“Of course. The benefit under the current system is entirely for the state. They want to be able to point to a picture of you holding your giant check and say, ‘See! This guy won, so can you!’ There is no benefit for the person holding the giant check. So much for privacy.” — **Rob Burgess**

Rob Burgess, Tribune night editor, may be reached by calling 765-454-8577, via email at rob.burgess@kokomotribune.com or on Twitter at twitter.com/robaburg.